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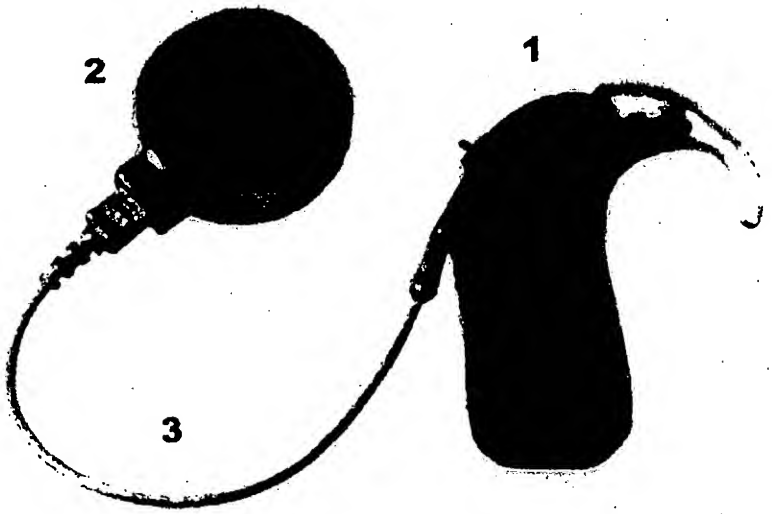
(54) Title: BEHIND-THE-EAR SPEECH PROCESSOR FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANT SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: Behind-the-ear (BTE) speech processor for cochlear implant systems, which is constructed in such a way that it constitutes a single mechanical unit (drawing 6). The unit is composed of a single shell, which contains the microphone (drawing 7.1), the electronic processor (EP) (drawing 7.2), the inductive transmission coil (ITC) (drawing 7.3), the fixing magnet (drawing 7.5), the batteries or accumulators (drawing 7.6), the control buttons and switches (drawing 7.7), the external connections socket (drawing 7.8) and the embedded fixing hook (FH) (drawing 7.4), that overall constitute a one-piece system, without any mobile parts. Hence, the BTE consists of only one piece or section, without a separate ITC or cables. In order to position this single-piece BTE speech processor (SPBTE), a fixing hook that fits around the auricle and a magnet that fits on the magnet of the CI is used. Its combined double fixation and the absence of any cable are the main advantages of the invention, which ensure easy of use, freedom of body movement and no damages due to cable wear and tear.

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